Increase in Foreign tourist traffic

1568. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist traffic from abroad has registered an increase during the last two months; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign tourist arrivals excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, increased by 17.4 per cent during December, 1985 and by 17.3 per cent during January, 1986 as compared to the corresponding months of the previous years.

Grant of Rs. 100 crores for Slum Improvement in Bombay

1569. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had announced in Bombay during the Congress Centenary Celebrations that about Rs. 100 crores would be provided for the improvement of slums in Bombay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission is reluctant to allocate the same amount; and

(c) what is the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India will provide non-Plan assistance of Rs. 100 crores to Maharashtra for the slum improvement programme in Bombay during the Seventh Plan period.

Export of Cotton Bales

1570. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cotton bales exports quota for the current year in respect of the Cotton Corporation of India, Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) what is the quantity of cotton bales purchased by CCI, Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Scheme and Gujarat during each of the last three years; and

(c) whether there is any demand for the sanction of more cotton bales for export from Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The information is as under:—

Name of the Agency	Quantity (in bales)
The Cotton Corporation of India.	4,00,000
The Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation. . . .	1,30,000
Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation. . . .	70,000

In addition to the above quota, a quantity of 1,80,000 bales of cotton for export has been placed at the disposal of the Textile Commissioner for distribution amongst the State Cooperative Marketing Federations, during the current cotton year.

(b) The purchases made by the Cotton Corporation of India during

the last three years are as under:—

Cotton year	Quantity (in lakh bales)
1982-83	9·71
1983-84	5·25
1984-85	6·67

The information in respect of the purchases made by the State Federations of Maharashtra and Gujarat is not readily available.

(c) In December, 1985 the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation and the Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation had requested for allotment of export quota of 3 lakh bales and two lakh bales of cotton respectively, in addition to the quota of 70,000 bales and 50,000 bales of cotton which had already been allotted to them. No further request has been received thereafter.

Cotton Monopoly Scheme of Maharashtra

1571. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Monopoly Scheme of Maharashtra is running into losses;

(b) if so, what steps the Central Government have taken to effect improvement in the Scheme; and

(c) whether Government propose to start Cotton Monopoly Scheme throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Scheme is operated by the State Government of Maharashtra

(c) The Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme is in operation in the State of Maharashtra only. There is no proposal to extend the said scheme to any other State.

Raid on Colden Tobacco Co.

1572. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anti-evasion wing the Directorate-General of Revenue intelligence conducted raids on the 30th January, 1986 at the factory premises of Golden Tobacco Company and at the residences of its Directors and dealers in different parts of the country to investigate alleged evasion of Central excise;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent of the tax evasion by the company detected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) On information that M/s. Golden Tobacco Company were evading central excise duty, the searches of the factory premisthe 20th January, 1986. The searches of some of its directors and dealers in different parts of the country were carried out by the Central Excise Department on the 20th January, 1986. The searches were coordinated by the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence. Preliminary scrutiny of the documents seized indicates that the company was charging an extra amount over and above the invoice price in the case of sale of one of its brands of cigarettes to the wholesale dealers. Investigations are in progress and the extent of central excise duty evaded will be known only on completion of the investigations.